

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A semi-solid enteral nutrition product for enteral administration directly to a stomach or intestines of a patient via from an external container connected to an external portion of a feeding tube provided through a through-hole of a stoma formed through a portion of the abdominal and stomach walls of the patient, from a container which is connected to a portion of the feeding tube outside the patient, upon the application of pressure of the to said external container, the feeding tube been placed through a through-hole of a stoma formed through an abdominal wall and a stomach wall of the patient, wherein the said semi-solid enteral nutrition product is formed as comprising:

a semi-solid material having a substantially self-supporting consistency that deforms to flow under an externally applied load without liquefying having approximately the same hardness as a pudding or a Japanese pot-steamed hotchpotch called CHAWAN MUSHI, by adding and that is capable of containing a higher concentration of a nutrient component than a liquid, said semi-solid material comprising a liquid nutrient solution and a semi-solidifying agent comprising one of agar or and a whole egg as a semi-solidifying agent that is added to a said liquid nutrient solution, the semi-solid being common to a solid in that the semi-solid has a shape retentivity allowing a shape of the semi-solid to be retained without a spontaneous change in shape, and in that the semi-solid is capable of containing a nutrition component at a higher concentration than those of a liquid and a fluid, the semi-solid being common to the liquid and the fluid in that the semi-solid is easier to be changed in shape due to an externally forced load than the solid, and;

wherein the shape retentivity said self-supporting consistency of said semi-solid enteral nutrition product is maintained remains substantially unchanged before, during, and after enteral administration of the said semi-solid enteral nutrition product into the

patient, and said self-supporting consistency of said semi-solid enteral nutrition product is further maintained while the enteral nutrition product is stayed within the stomach or the intestines of the patient, such that the said semi-solid enteral nutrition product is does not liquefied liquefy due to a the body temperature of the patient.

2. (Currently Amended) The enteral nutrition product according to claim 1, wherein the said feeding tube has an internal diameter that is larger than approximately 4 mm.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing the semi-solid enteral nutrition product defined in according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

filling providing a holder which is comprising the same as the one of said container or which and another vessel that is separate from the said container;

filling said holder with a mixture of the said liquid nutrition product nutrient solution and the said semi-solidifying agent in a liquid state thereof; and

performing a heat-treating the step to heat-treat said mixture within the said holder, together with the said holder under a condition where the, when said holder is filled with the said mixture, such that the;

wherein said heat-treating step comprises cooling said mixture is cooled where the when said semi-solidifying agent is made of the agar; and

such that the wherein said heat-treating step comprises heating said mixture is heated where the when said semi-solidifying agent is made of the whole egg, thereby;

to thereby prepare the said semi-solid enteral nutrition product.

4. (Currently Amended) An A semi-solid enteral nutrition product administration device comprising:

a holder; and

the semi-solid enteral nutrition product according to claim 1 provided within said holder with a container, which is disposed such that a container is filled with an enteral nutrition product for administration to a stomach or intestines of a patient via a

~~feeding tube, from the container which is connected to a portion of the feeding tube outside the patient, upon application of pressure of the container, the feeding tube been placed through a through hole of a stoma formed through an abdominal wall and a stomach wall of the patient,~~

~~wherein the enteral nutrition product is formed as a semi-solid having approximately the same hardness as a pudding or a Japanese pot-steamed hotchpotch called CHAWAN MUSHI, by adding agar or a whole egg as a semi-solidifying agent to a nutrient solution, the semi-solid being common to a solid in that the semi-solid has a shape retentivity allowing a shape of the semi-solid to be retained without a spontaneous change in shape, and in that the semi-solid is capable of containing a nutrition component at a higher concentration than those of a liquid and a fluid, the semi-solid being common to the liquid and the fluid in that the semi-solid is easier to be changed in shape due to an externally forced load than the solid,~~

~~wherein the shape retentivity is maintained before, during, and after administration of the enteral nutrition product into the patient, and is maintained while the enteral nutrition product is stayed within the stomach or the intestines of the patient, such that the enteral nutrition product is not liquefied due to a body temperature of the patient, and;~~

wherein said holder comprises one of said container and another vessel that is separate from said container; and

wherein the said semi-solid enteral nutrition product is prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

filling a providing said holder is the same as the container or which is separate from the container;

filling said holder with a liquid mixture of the said liquid nutrient solution and the said semi-solidifying agent in a liquid state thereof; and

performing a heat-treating the step to heat-treat said mixture within the holdersaid holder, together with the said holder under a condition where the holder is filled with the mixture, such that;

~~wherein said heat-treating step comprises cooling the said mixture is cooled~~
~~where the~~within said holder when said semi-solidifying agent is made of the agar; and
~~such that the~~wherein said heat-treating step comprises heating said mixture is
~~heated where the~~within said holder when said semi-solidifying agent is made of the
whole egg.

5. (New) The semi-solid enteral nutrition product according to claim 1, wherein said semi-solidifying agent comprises agar which is added in amount of 1 gram to 200 ml of a diluting liquid that is first added to said liquid nutrient solution.

6. (New) The semi-solid enteral nutrition product according to claim 1, wherein said semi-solidifying agent comprises egg added in an amount of one whole raw egg to 250 ml of said liquid nutrient solution.